

A.C.O.S. BULLETIN

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AUSTRALIA

DEFINITION

We define the UFO as the reported perception of an object or light, seen in the sky or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification if one is possible.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

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Editorial.

by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

Has anyone noticed that the Bulletin has started to suffer from obesity lately? If you have, we confess that we have been overfeeding it somewhat - but then, this is what we asked for and what we (and, we hope, you) want.

Yes, the pens of UFO investigators/researchers are starting to move around the country and articles of high quality are floating in to our Bulletin so readily in fact that the last edition had trouble fitting into its envelope!

But, lest you think this is leading up to a call for moderation - forget it !! Don't stop those articles coming in - send us more and more. The Bulletin does not have to watch its figure, it can grow as fat as we like. In fact, we are even starting to consider going bi-monthly in the new year and we would dearly like to be sending out nice fat Bulletins every two months from now on, especially since we invested in larger size envelopes. We are not accustomed to thin publications any more, so let's keep them fat.

The Bulletin serves a unique place in Australian UFO publications. We may stir, but we try not to become lost in too much speculation. We are investigators and researchers, and the articles we like are those by investigators for investigators, those which will help the investigation of this problem, those which present researched conclusions and scientific speculation which may offer someone the piece of information he or she needs to fit the puzzle together and make a meaningful advance toward the solution.

So keep up the good work, UFO investigators of Australia, we have far to go, but at least we are on our way. We also take this opportunity to wish all our readers the very best for christmas and the new year, and hope that 1979 will bring us just that much closer in everything.

Editorial.by Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

"At tree-top level. . ." - this phrase often appears in UFO reports. It seems on the surface to be a straightforward informative phrase, conjuring up a fairly definite picture - namely, an object literally at tree-top level, or about 50-100 feet above the ground. Often this statement is coupled with another - "the object passed overhead". Taken together, they strongly imply that the sighted object (generally also reported to be silent or nearly so) passed directly over the witnesses at a height of less than 100 feet. That would make a Close Encounter indeed!

But, one must be extremely careful about accepting such a statement at face value. It can cause a great deal of confusion. Take "at tree-top level". The moon can be seen to be at tree-top level when its seen close to the horizon! Yet, in actuality, it is 240,000 miles above the earth!

Or take "it passed overhead". "Overhead" is often very loosely used. To some it means "fairly high above the horizon" or just "not near the horizon". So, when a witness says "It passed overhead at tree-top level", this could mean that it passed by at half-way between the horizon and the zenith.

The lesson here is clear: one should not put one's own interpretation on the witness's statement !

Valentich - The Facts to date:by H. Griesberg.

On Saturday October 21st this year, at 1819 hours (local time), Pilot Frederick Valentich took off from Moorabbin airport, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, to fly a single-engined Cessna 182 aircraft to King Island, some 140 Kilometers to the SSW. The reason given for the flight was that Valentich intended to fly to King Island to pick up some crayfish off the local fishermen, and to log up more night flying time.

Passing over Cape Otway lighthouse (according to Valentich) at about 1900 hours, the first hint of the incident took place, when Valentich contacted Melbourne Flight Control.

Following, is a transcript of the last few minutes of conversation between Valentich and Melbourne Flight Control:

7.06 p.m. Pilot to Ground : " Is there any known traffic in my area below 5,000 feet?"

GROUND: "Negative - no known traffic."

PILOT: "Seems to be a large aircraft below 5,000 feet."

GROUND: "What type of aircraft?"

PILOT: "I cannot confirm. It has four bright lights that appear to be landing lights.....aircraft has just passed over me about 1,000 feet above."

GROUND: "Is large aircraft confirmed?"

PILOT: " Affirmative; at the speed it is travelling, are there any RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) aircraft in vicinity?"

GROUND: " Negative, what is your altitude?"

PILOT: " 4,500 feet."

GROUND: "Confirm you cannot identify aircraft."

PILOT: " Affirmative."

(3)

At 7.08 p.m., Pilot to Ground: "Melbourne, its approaching from due east of me. It seems to be playing some sort of game. Flying at speeds I cannot estimate.

Then, three minutes after his original transmission, Valentich reported again:

PILOT: " Aircraft, it's not an aircraft. It's. . ." (break in transmission)

GROUND: " Can you describe aircraft?"

PILOT: "It is flying past. It has a long shape. Cannot identify more than that. . . .coming for me right now. It seems to be stationary. I am orbiting and the thing is orbiting on top of me. It has a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside.

Valentich then told ground control the object had vanished.

GROUND:" Confirm it has vanished."

PILOT:" Affirmative. Do you know what sort of aircraft I've got?. . . Is it military?"

GROUND: "No military traffic in the area."

THEN, AT 7.12 P.M.

PILOT: " Engine is rough idling and coughing."

GROUND:" What are your intentions?"

PILOT:" Proceeding King Island. Unknown aircraft now hovering on top of me, it is not an aircraft."

Ground:" Acknowledge".

Then came a long metallic noise and the contact with Valentich's aircraft was lost.

When all this news was released, widespread investigation and searches were conducted by the investigators of Australian UFO groups, members of the media, Air Force, Department of Transport etc. Beliefs regarding the true fate of 20-year old Frederick Valentich range from the abduction of the pilot by a UFO, to disorientation and subsequent crash of the plane, or a deliberately staged hoax for reasons known only to Valentich himself. However, a number of points do stand out in this case, whether one believes the UFO abduction or the hoax hypothesis, or any other theory one may conjure up.

At the time this article was composed, (December 28th) no further word has been from Valentich, and I personally believe that only time will tell us as to the true conclusion to this bizarre case. These points are as follows:

1. Valentich was carrying enough fuel for 300 minutes of flight (300 litres) or, over 1000 kilometers. The return flight to King Island would only take half that amount. Taking a 1000 KM circle from Moorabbin airport, one could fly as far north as the New South Wales - Queensland border, as far west as the South Australia - West Australia border or anywhere in Tasmania or Victoria.
2. The lighthouse keeper at Cape Otway, SSW of Melbourne, stated he had not heard any aircraft at the time Valentich would have been in the area, despite the fact that the pilot's flight plan was almost directly over the lighthouse and it was a very clear night.

3. No return flight was logged with Melbourne Ground Control.
4. Fishermen in Bass Strait (between Melbourne and King Island) said they saw or heard nothing unusual at that time.
5. Valentich's girlfriend was supposed to be picked up by Valentich at 7.30 p.m. that night, yet Valentich took off from the airport by plane at 6.19 p.m., which meant he could not have returned before 9.00 p.m.
6. Valentich did NOT request Kin Island airport controllers to switch on the runway lights. This would have made it impossible for him to land on the tiny landing strip.
7. Police on King Island could find no-one who had arranged to sell crayfish to Valentich (which was the main reason Valentich gave to fly to King Island).
8. In order to hear the "metallic crash noise", (which was the last thing ever heard over the radio), during the last 17 seconds of transmission, Valentich would have had to have kept the transmit button depressed on the microphone (hand held), which is highly unlikely, if the plane would have crashed, unless if the microphone was jammed somewhere to keep the button depressed either intentionally or unintentionally.
9. An unconfirmed report was received, of a light plane landing near Cape Otway on the same night. This report, to date, has not been confirmed.
10. Valentich's chief flying instructor, stated on the television programme "P.M." (23/10/78) that Valentich had the required instrument rating and he was flying an aeroplane which had all the instruments in it which he would need, and therefore would know if he was flying upside-down, seeing his own reflection in the water, as has also been suggested.
11. Valentich had flown more than 150 hours, including more than 15 hours at night.
12. On the Cessna 182, were four orange-coloured polystyrene life-jackets, designed to be visible from the air.
13. Parts of the plane were constructed from modular units which float in the event of a crash, but none of these easily-visible objects have ever been found.

Finally, what does Federal Parliament think about the incident? The question was raised only once, on Thursday October 26th, when a politician, Mr. Yates, asked the Minister for Transport:

"Does the Minister for Transport have any further information concerning the Cessna light aircraft which was reported missing during the weekend on a journey from Moorabbin to King Island and in relation to which a transcript of the radio communication with the radio control centre was released? Can the Minister tell the house what was the location of that aircraft and what is known to have happened?"

To which the Minister, Mr. Nixon replied:

"This is one of the few times in the parliament that I am caught short for words. I really cannot give any information at all about the mysterious disappearance of the aircraft that has not already been publicly stated. It is quite clear there was a perfectly rational and normal conversation held between the pilot of the aeroplane and the service facilities staff prior to the point of disappearance. That conversation has been recorded and something comparable to it has been replayed on radio and television broadcasts. It remains a mystery. At this point, all I can say is that after several days of searching we have downgraded the search. We have one Beechcraft Baron aircraft still searching the area and we have taken the other aircraft off standby. All I can say is that it is a mystery and looks like remaining a mystery."

Some thoughts on the Valentich Case.

by K. Basterfield.

WEATHER: A pilot who flew in from King Island reported that at 5.48 p.m. there was not a cloud in the sky and that visibility was first rate. There was a mild NW breeze. Sea temperature was about 8 degrees above freezing.

PILOT: The pilot was 20 years old and lived in Avondale Heights, a Melbourne suburb with his parents and brothers and sisters. His father said that his son had wanted to be a pilot ever since the age of 12 and had spent three years with the RAAF air training corp as a cadet, and was an instructor. He was flying the plane to King Island to pick up some crayfish and was to have returned by 10.00 p.m. This was also to add to his night flying hours, as he worked towards a commercial pilot's licence. He had undergone acrobatic training and most of his overall training had been in the Southern Air Services Cessna which he was flying at the time. His father was intending to go with him, but as his son had some studying to do at the airfield it was not practical for both to go. His father said: "Frederick was very positive and doesn't talk nonsense." However he did also relate that his son believed in UFOs and had told him that he had seen classified information on them at the Sale Air Force Base which confirmed his belief. Frederick was also said to have seen a UFO some months prior to the incident. The pilot had never been to King Island before in the dark, but had been there before during the day.

AIRCRAFT: This was a single engined Cessna 182, with a flying range of about 5 hours. It carried life jackets and a VHF beacon which is designed to activate upon hard impact, thus indicating the location of the plane.

IMMEDIATE REACTION: The immediate reaction of the Department of Transport as quoted in the press was that the pilot could have accidentally inverted the plane, become disorientated and viewed the Cape Otway and King Island lighthouses. His father denied this and talked of a UFO "being a real possibility".

THE SEARCH:

22 October: A RAAF Orion from Edinburgh 2 South Australia, searched the area and located an oil slick 25 KM N of King Island. The King Island flight service unit said that wreckage would not be missed by an intensive search and the likelihood was that the plane was underwater.

23 October: Three boats worked their way up the W coast of King Island along the Cessna's flight path towards Cape Otway. A land search of Cape Otway and King Island found nothing. One boat picked up a sample of the oil slick about 40 KM NNE of Cape Wickham, King Island. A Cessna 150, RAAF Orion and a Nomad aircraft searched the area. Several fruitboxes and plastic bags were found in the sea were declared not from the plane.

24 October: Four more aircraft joined the search.

25 October: Rectangular pieces of white and blue metal were seen floating some 15 KM off the Wye river on the mainland. They were believed to be ships' waste. The search was scaled down to a Beach Baron plane which concentrated on an area 41 KM in radius centred on a point 33 KM NE of Cape Wickham. The search was called off on the night of the 25th after aircraft had scoured 1800 square kilometers in vain. The oil sample taken from a slick was declared not to be aviation fuel.

28 October: A twin engined Aero-Commander plane searched the beaches of SW Victoria checking to see if anything had been washed up. Nothing unusual was found.

Some specific points:

1. Aviation sources said that it would be impossible for a pilot to fly a Cessna 182 in an inverted position for long - say 30-60 seconds or beyond as the plane has a wet sump engine which is gravity fed which would be starved of oil.
2. Mr A Schutt of Schutt Aviation Co. said that the noise heard on the radio during the last transmission was typical of a plane landing on water.
3. It was reported that the plane was not on radar at the time, which it should have been if the pilot's position was as he said it was.
4. Also reported was the fact that some senior controllers felt that the aircraft was not in the position given by the pilot.
5. It was later revealed that only a one way flight plan had been filed although the pilot's declared intentions according to his father was to return home by 10.00 p.m.

Discussion: Various hypotheses have been put forward to account for all data available which has come to light concerning this incident. Unfortunately the incident occurred interstate and involved the Department of Transport. Thus a thorough and independent investigation cannot be made. Even the media has not been able to conduct real in depth investigation. Therefore the following comments are given with this limitation in mind and should further evidence come to light, I reserve the right to alter my comments accordingly.

There are really only four main hypotheses with slight variations on them:-

- a) The pilot and plane were taken away by a UFO.
- b) The plane crashed into the sea after the pilot became disorientated. The UFO was really a lighthouse.
- c) The pilot deliberately made off with the plane and landed elsewhere.
- d) The pilot deliberately crashed the plane and made up the UFO observation. The crash occurred outside the area where the pilot said he was.

Going on the information at hand, we can put one hypothesis forward, ahead of the others which accounts for all known points.

However, let's take a look at them, one by one. Firstly, (b). A comment came from the Department of Transport that the pilot might have inverted the plane and seen two lighthouses. Presumably this caused him to crash, going down instead of up. Several aviation sources quoted in the press, denied this would be possible for longer than a minute or so. Overall, this hypothesis doesn't add up.

Now for (c), comments were made that air traffic controllers were in doubt that the plane was where the pilot reported. The plane was not on radar when it should have been. Under this hypothesis, the UFO was a hoax to cover for the pilot flying the plane back to Victoria and landing at some deserted airstrip. Against this would be the almost sure fact that someone would recognise the \$43,000 plane. Also that very few strips would be equipped for night landing, and if manned someone would have known about it. Anyway, this sounds very unlikely to have actually happened because of the noise ending the transmissions.

How about (a)? Sounds attractive? Not really. The UFO literature contains many reported aircraft sightings but only a couple of disappearances connected with a UFO for certainty.

The reliability of past cases and the lack of adequate documentation makes them extremely suspect. Here we have one pilot calling about something that no one else could see and which didn't appear on radar. I believe that there is a much simpler explanation than this to account for the incident.

Hypothesis (d), that the pilot crashed the aircraft has the following supporting facts:

1. The plane was not on radar at the time although it should have been. Therefore it doesn't appear to have been in the location which the pilot said it was.

2. An intensive search of the indicated spot failed to find any trace of the plane.
3. It was revealed that the pilot had only filed a one way flight plan although he was to have flown back almost straight away.
4. The microphone button on the radio is pressed to transmit and released to receive. There was a 17 second "open mike" with metallic noise which seems to indicate that the pilot held the button down. This would be unlikely in the event of an accidental crash according to an air crash investigator. It was almost as if the pilot wanted the crash transmitted.
5. According to his father, the pilot believed in UFOs, having seen one a few months before. The pilot's voice was said to have been calm as he reported the object.

One possible counter argument to a crash is that the VHF survival beacon should have activated on a hard impact as intended. However, according to a pilot, this is often turned off during training runs as a learner pilot often makes hard impact landings..

Conclusion: Taking all the available evidence into account and pending the official investigation there seems to be little doubt that the incident had nothing to connect it with the UFO phenomenon.

Are there too many UFOs?

by John Prytz.

The phenomena of the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO), the belief that UFOs were extraterrestrial spacecraft and objections to that theory all surfaced in quick succession in the late 1940s. Since then, the subject of UFOs has gained in both public and scientific popularity (no doubt due to the exciting possibility that proof was just around the corner that we were not alone in the universe,) although answers to the questions of exactly what are they, and if extraterrestrial, where do they come from and what do they want are as elusive as ever. To date, neither the propounders of the extraterrestrial (ET) "nuts & bolts" theory, nor the opponents have been able to put forth enough of a well reasoned case to sway a large proportion of the "fence-sitters", though the verbal battle has been waged long, often and heatedly.

A recent and increasingly frequent objection raised against the ET theory of explaining some UFO reports has been the very number of those reports. According to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Centre for UFO Studies, Evanston Illinois, and probably the best known professional scientist taking UFOs seriously, the sheer number of reports argue against the alien spaceship explanation.

There is an "embarrassment of riches" according to Dr. Hynek. In an interview in the January 1978 issue of PLAYBOY, Dr. Hynek mentions that:

"At present, we're getting, on the average, reports of about 100 sightings a night. That's around 36,500 a year. And the number is increasing all over the world. Of course, it's important to point out that a great majority of these initial reports turn out to be IFOs - IDENTIFIED flying objects - but not ALL of them, by any means." (pp68)

Later in the article, he presents the crux of his objections to the physically real alien spaceship explanation.

"....this theory is rapidly losing ground among researchers, if only because of the tremendous number of sightings themselves. I'd be happier if there were only one sighting every 100 years instead of hundreds EVERY year. The distances are far too astronomical for there to be that many extraterrestrial spacecraft visiting the Earth". (pp.92)

I would agree that a casual and seemingly endless parade of alien spaceships visiting this tiny and unimportant speck, requiring travels over incredible distances is either impressive evidence for our importance after all, or else a highly improbable explanation for the hundreds of thousands of UFO sightings that have accumulated over the past three decades. Except that the entire objection is based on a single and flawed assumption. That assumption is that each UFO report is a product of one unique alien spaceship making a long time and distance journey to earth, reaching earth, generating that one UFO sighting and report, then immediately repeating that long time and distance journey home. This is repeated again and again and again. That theory tying together UFOs with alien spaceships won't wash, as Dr. Hynek rightly suggests. However, that theory is illogical. (see diagram one, the "Embarrassment of riches" theory.)

My assumption is that UFOs still can be products of an extraterrestrial civilization, alien spacecraft, but not necessarily interstellar spaceships, and that only a small fleet of these extrasolar "nuts & bolts" spacecraft need be postulated to account for however many of the UFO reports you care to explain away by the ET theory.

An analogy: How many automobiles are "sighted" in Sydney in a year? Say each of the 3,000,000 residents spots an average 50 cars a day for each of the 365 days in a year. That amounts to roughly 5.5×10^{10} (55,000,000,000) automobiles sighted in Sydney each year.

Are there really that many cars in Sydney? Obviously not. Each sighting does not equal a unique car that is witnessed once and once only. As Sydney only has around one million automobiles, each one was sighted many times.

Would 36,500 UFO reports/year (even if all remain unidentified) remotely suggest that 36,500 different and unique spacecraft entered our atmosphere that year? Obviously not, yet that is what the before mentioned objection implies.

Despite the large number of world-wide UFO sightings, most turn out to be as Dr. Hynek mentioned, identified. Of those that remain, perhaps a large percentage will turn out to be natural or man-made phenomena known or unknown. Even this residue is far too large if aliens come to earth in the manner that we went to the moon, that is, one spaceship, one landing.

Numbers and distances are the key elements here. As to the former, one UFO circumnavigates the globe could easily generate hundreds of sightings by itself. No need to suggest an equal number of craft, one will do nicely, thank you very much! One UFO in the form of an alien craft, could, over its "tour of duty", if flying every day, end up being responsible for thousands, tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of sightings, which become translated as UFO reports. This means, there is no need to assume an immediate turn about time.

What about distance? There is no real reason to believe that UFOs, if really alien spaceships, are interplanetary. If spaceships, the odds must be greatly in favour of their being extra-solar from beyond the solar system. And if that is so, then the distances are indeed so vast, that I doubt if our minds could really grasp the significance of it all. And, I don't intend to suggest any non-conventional physics to overcome the problem - no hyper-space no warp drives, no faster than light travel etc. The distances may be vast, but they are still finite. Maybe too vast for casual quick trips to and fro, but perhaps not vast enough to stop a major expedition. A well equipped and lengthy expedition.

People didn't take weekend jaunts from London to Australia in the 1700s and don't today, but large scale scientific expeditions (Cook et al) were undertaken then, and long term business and holiday trips are taken now. The analogy applies to our potential extraterrestrial visitors.

If Charles Darwin and company would take five years out of their lives to undertake the voyage of HMS Beagle, it might not be unreasonable to assume that aliens might view us across interstellar space as Darwin viewed the wonders of the Galapagos Islands across the vast oceans of his world and time?

And surely we have all heard of or seen auto-trains, or ferries that transport cars, or giant military C-5As that could transport all sorts of military vehicles at a single go. Just why couldn't one major alien super-spaceship, the HMS Beagle of the stars, carry as cargo smaller scout and survey craft.

It is also not unknown for expeditions (Earthly) be they scientific military or recreational, to have base camps which serve as the starting and finishing points after the work has been done. In like fashion, the projected "mother ship" could serve as such a base camp, and/or one(s) could be set up on the Moon, one of the other satellites in the solar system, or asteroids. Then, the distance to the primary objective(s) would be short - short enough for the casual parade to start.

Analogy: It is a major trip to drive from Sydney to Perth, but once there, you set up your base camp (hotel room) and make any number of short trips to your various objectives in and around the city. UFOs, though extrasolar in origin, could be based within easy commuting distance of us! (see diagram two, the "Scientific Expedition" theory.)

Putting it all together now, let's play a little numbers game - it might not have any scientific meaning, it might not approximate reality, but it could! And it can show plausibility and enough logic to cause a rethink in the "embarrassment of riches" argument.

As already illustrated (Darwin et al), it has not been considered unreasonable to devote 7% or more of the human lifespan in continuous service in the cause of scientific exploration (or for military conquests for that matter)!

Let us also assume that these hypothetical aliens have lifespans of 500 years (some earthly organisms can go that one better by a good margin). Let us then conclude that perhaps a 35 terrestrial year expedition to "them" is no more or less what the HMS Beagle voyage was to Darwin.

Of that 35 year time span, let us assume most of the time is spent in travel to and fro the parent planet, say 25 years, and that they operate within conventional physics, though with abilities far greater than ours (but then by earthly analogy, the discovered has always been technologically weaker than the discoverer). Say "they" can reach .75c, that is abilities to travel at velocities 75% that of the speed of light, which comes to about 140,000 miles/second. In contrast, the fastest we have sent anything has been about 9 miles/second, the Pioneer 10 and 11 probes to the outer solar system. If that doesn't seem much in comparison, remember it has been only about 50 years since Lindbergh flew the Atlantic, and these postulated aliens could (and probably would be) several orders of magnitude more ahead of us. Perhaps .75c will be a reality for us within 500 years - maybe less - maybe a lot less!

Given that velocity, and a round trip time of 25 years plus the 10 years active exploration time spent in our solar system prior to being relieved by another expedition (I have to postulate that since UFOs at best have been around since World War Two), then "they" could come from a radius of slightly over nine light years away (I'm ignoring effects due to relativity phenomena). That would bring in at least five stellar systems, so we see we don't have to make extremely wild assumptions to bring in the closer stellar neighbors as possible abodes for "them."

I also assume that earth would receive the majority of the attention since it is the only planet in the solar system with "intelligence" and life (no doubt with far more of the latter than the former).

Let us say that our interstellar mothership (assume only one though two or three even isn't really anymore "way out") carries 25 landing scout and survey craft - the traditional disc-shaped flying saucers if you will, and that each of these for the sake of efficiency will operate most of the time, say 80% of the time. That translates to about 19 hours/day. Further, assume that 4/5s (80%) make one survey per day (the other 20% are in for repairs) for those 19 hours. Given those figures, we would be under surveillance for 380 hours per day. That translates to 138,700 spy hours/year and 1,387,000 surveillance hours spent during the proposed 10 years expedition. Now if one unexplainable UFO report was sent in for each one of those hours, then you quickly generate an "embarrassment of riches" without having to resort to 1,387,000 different spaceships each coming from up to 9 light years away, and doing a quicky back home again - naturally!

Sheer guesswork? No doubt about it, but no more so than the guesswork that is inherent in the "embarrassment of riches" theory.

Finally, this is not meant as an attack on Dr. Hynek, his work or beliefs, or anybody else for that matter. Rather, it is an attempt to keep viable the possibility that an ET theory can still account for some UFO reports, for if that plausibility were ever shattered, then much if not all of the popular base that would support serious scientific work on UFOs would vanish.

DIAGRAM 1.

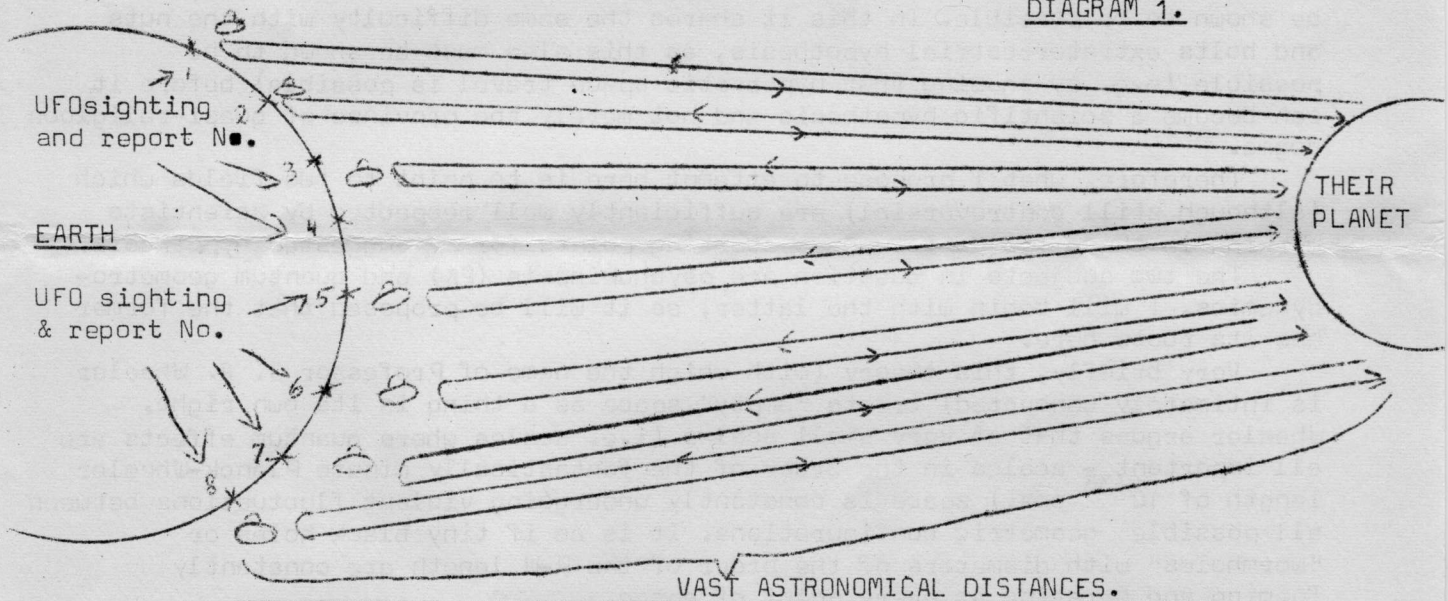
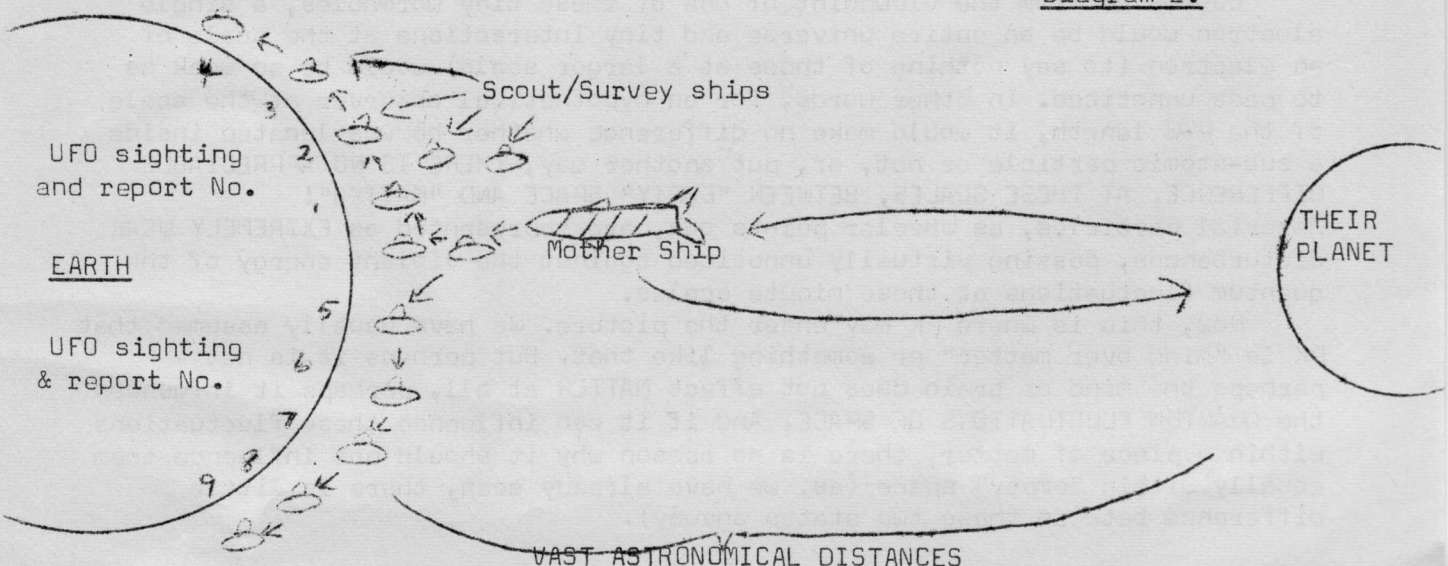


Diagram 2.



The Lama, The UFO & The Cosmologist by D. Seargent.

In the last Bulletin, I launched off into what may have seemed overly wild speculation concerning the possibly nature of the UFO phenomenon. (Briefly, you may recall, I suggested that UFOs - at least those which seem physical - may be projections of a poltergeistic nature similar to the tulpa of the Tibetan mystics or the apparitions of such psychic-phenomena theorists as Andrew Green).

Now, this may seem all very well - but where is the evidence that such projections are even possible?

This has been, admittedly, a weak point with the projection theory. It has always rested solely upon evidence (i.e. its main appeal has been that IF there could be such projections, much awkward evidence would fall into line).

It has never emerged as a RESULT of speculation in another field. Even here, of course, it is no worse than most other UFO theories (which are only ad hoc anyway) and it does have the additional advantage of being able to accomodate ALL the evidence. No other theory can do this, I don't think, and this puts the projection hypothesis in front right away as a serious and SCIENTIFIC possibility, depending upon no quasi-occultist, spiritualistic or extraterrestrial assumptions.

Nevertheless, before it is accepted as a scientific hypothesis, it must be shown to be possible. In this it shares the same difficulty with the nuts and bolts extraterrestrial hypothesis, as this also must be shown to be possible (e.g. by showing that hyperoptic space travel is possible) before it can become a scientific hypothesis and not merely the province of quasi-religious dogma.

Therefore, what I propose to attempt here is to point to two fields which (although still controversial) are sufficiently well respected by scientists working in these fields to use as starting points for my suggested hypothesis.

The two subjects in question are psychokinesis (PK) and quantum geometrodynamics. I will begin with the latter, as it will be proposed that the former has its roots here.

Very briefly, this theory (with which the name of Professor J. A. Wheeler is intimately connected) treats "empty" space as a thing in its own right. Wheeler argues that at very small scales (i.e. scales where quantum effects are all important - scales in the order of the fantastically minute Planck-Wheeler length of 10^{-33} cms.) space is constantly undergoing violent fluctuations between all possible geometric configurations. It is as if tiny black holes or "wormholes" with diameters of the order of the P-W length are constantly forming and bursting at every point of space.

Now, space at these levels is, it would seem, a very violent place, but the scales involved are extremely small. It would take some 10^{20} P-W lengths to make the diameter of a single sub-atomic particle!

Looked at from the viewpoint of one of these tiny wormholes, a single electron would be an entire universe and tiny interactions at the scale of an electron (to say nothing of those at a larger scale) would be so weak as to pass unnoticed. In other words, for an hypothetical observer at the scale of the P-W length, it would make no difference whether he was located inside a sub-atomic particle or not, or, put another way, THERE IS NO APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE, AT THESE SCALES, BETWEEN "EMPTY" SPACE AND "MATTER"!

Material particles, as Wheeler points out, are represented as EXTREMELY WEAK disturbances, passing virtually unnoticed against the violent energy of the quantum fluctuations at these minute scales.

Now, this is where PK may enter the picture. We have usually assumed that PK is "mind over matter" or something like that. But perhaps it is not - perhaps the mind or brain does not affect MATTER at all, perhaps it influences the QUANTUM FLUCTUATIONS OF SPACE. And if it can influence these fluctuations within a piece of matter, there is no reason why it should not influence them equally within "empty" space (as, we have already seen, there is little difference between these two states anyway).

It is here that the hypothetical projection of tulpas, apparitions and apparently solid UFOs may find explanations. THESE ARE PK CREATIONS FROM THE QUANTUM DISTURBANCES OF SPACE! Agitation of "empty" space giving rise to matter-like effects.

For myself, I find it very hard to believe in "psychic forces". If PK is a real phenomenon, then it must have a physical cause, and I would bet that this cause is to be found at the quantum level - in something like the manipulation of the geometrodynamic structure of space itself.

If you allow me to go off at a tangent here, I wonder if every act of thinking, every bit of unconscious dreaming, leaves a PK trace in space. Psychometry and hauntings suggest that this could be so, and such a belief would give a new meaning to the "World Mind" of Yeats and George Russell (otherwise known as "AE"). Unlike the collective unconscious of Jung, the World Mind of AE was thought to exist "out there", over and above human beings, and to be the receptacle of all thoughts and mental creations of the race. It could be tapped into by the poet or visionary who would then experience images not of his own creations - images which may reflect the folklore of the race.

Now, if telepathy actually involves very long frequency electromagnetic waves (as the present writer believes) there is a sense in which some super telepath 2,000 light years from earth may now be able to tune into the thoughts of Julius Caesar!

Moreover (and closer to AE's philosophy), if every thought leaves a PK trace in space, the earth would act as a kind of limb of thoughts, not quite in the manner of AE, but essentially the same (AE apparently believed the earth to be in some sense, alive) and, if this is correct, would it not be possible for the right conditions to "replay" these recorded images, creating apparitions created by centuries of mythological dreaming? And would it not be possible that the replay of such mythological images may be distorted into conformity with the belief system of the present day? Could this answer Jacques Vallee's questions concerning the similarity between ufonauts and the fairies of mythology?

Surely there are many questions here, for someone who is not afraid to delve into areas of a not-too-respectable nature.

1947 - 1978 . . . What Now?

by David Reneke.

It has been some thirty odd years now since the 'modern era' of ufology started. When you look back over these years and consider the amount of good, solid research that has been done you can't help but wonder why today we are still in the same general position we were then.

Look at the cases that have formed the backbone of the subject and think of the efforts that went into researching them, how come we are still going back over them today and finding out things we didn't know then? Could it be that the thorough investigation we were led to believe had been undertaken, really hadn't?, or is it the fact that the investigator at the time was hampered by the lack of co-operation from his fellow workers and had to make the best follow up he could on his own? I think that those 'early days' were the testing point for many a would be UFO investigator and many fell under the trampling hooves of apathy and suspicion compounded by the secrecy and public distrust situation that existed at the time.

The cover-up problem still rears it's ugly face today, but in a lesser light than before, it can be overcome but not without assistance on a national scale, assistance from each individual and each group pooling their information in a concentrated effort to realise a dream - the dream to see the UFO problem for what it is, real in context and perplexing in nature. Is it really as perplexing as we make it out to be?, are we interpreting our data correctly or are we misconstruing what facts we have and building a false model in the process? These answers will come I suppose in time but what can we do today to broaden our knowledge and widen our horizons.

I became active in this field a little over 2 years ago and since that time I have looked, and looked hard at what has been achieved. I have considered all that I have read and I have accepted the fact that you cannot change everyone's opinions overnight. I have, so to speak, entered this field with a great handicap and I have set myself certain goals which to date have been realised. I have looked at the problem from many sides and I would be the first to agree it is massive in the proportions but even the tallest mountain can be levelled in time with the right amount of help. Through co-operation and an interchange of data we can level this UFO problem down, it is already being done, but not on a scale we want.

It is heartening to see the work currently being done by the research groups all around the world and everyday a new organization is born. How long they live is another question for they can only expand and grow through CONTACT with others, swapping details of current investigations and assisting in the research of older cases. Why must there be older cases?, can it be that we are finally seeing the fruits of our labours, more people have heard of UFOs than ever before and they are finding out that there is somewhere to report their sighting. Thanks for this must go to their various media outlets which are mixed blessing anyway but they have been instrumental in putting the UFO subject in front of the public, something that we as a collective investigative network must be thankful for.

Why the older cases?, well, perhaps it's because of this media exposure or maybe because a few of us have had the gumption and taken the time to get out and dig up their own leads. It is a sad fact but true that in this field of ufology must prefer to sit back and reap the benefits of someone's else's work, I make no apologies for this statement only to say that if the cap fits....!

We in Australia are lucky in a lot of respects, we have a cohesive and workable program which is unique in that we have a country-wide network of capable and enthusiastic people all interested in the one cause. We have a fairly well organised investigative team in each of the states, and with the introduction of the computer we are well on the way to becoming a world leader in the field of UFO research. But the system is only as good as those who operate it, if we decide that our efforts over the years have been for nothing and all our suggestions have fallen on deaf ears then we are surely wrong, you only have to look at the percentage of people coming forward these days with reports of unusual activity that they have witnessed to see the changing public attitudes, these people would not have dared utter a word about UFOs before, lest they be considered 'weird' and have their mental faculties brought under suspicion. This is, in part, due to you, the UFO investigator who have taken the time to research your subject and undertake the responsibility of interviewing the witness in an effort to extract the truth. By your actions, and others like you, the subject has gained repute and we are all benefiting from it, by putting pressure on those who sought to hide the facts we are seeing for the first time the extent of the problem, a problem that has intrigued men for centuries.

If, however, ufology ever succumbs to the diseases that prompted the U.S Air Force's Blue Book study, (deceit, suspicion, secrecy) then the forces that continue to hide the truth from the world will have achieved their victory. Already inter-group fighting has begun in other countries, even to the extent that court action has been instigated by certain persons to gain the rights to cover cases which they maintain are their exclusive domain - exclusive! imagine what effect this has on the witness involved seeing both sides wage war against each other, and consider another person watching all this and trying to decide if he should report his sighting, surely he would think twice, so the inevitable conclusion would be he would with-hold his information and we would never know about it ...another one lost'.

I believe a new era is starting in ufology, the trend is coming that was cultivated a few years ago by instituting new concepts and formulating new ideas, everyone is tired of the same old routine and we are now looking toward

instrumented UFO research which holds the greatest promise for the future. No benefit scientifically can come from hearing of a case and carrying out a meagre follow up, it must be checked thoroughly and matched against known data in an effort to find a lead, somewhere to start. If we go back to the base level and attempt to put together what we have so far discovered we may uncover something important that we missed, it may seem insignificant and may not even relate to the problem as we know it but one thing is certain, after thirty years we are still in the dark probing for a lead - this in itself must attest to the fact that we were stagnating, going over the same set routine, well I say this routine is no longer useful, we must try a new approach by getting out into the areas of known activity with as much scientific apparatus as we can muster, by becoming aware of our limitations and the limitations of our equipment for if a good flap does occur we will feel secure in the knowledge that we have tested ourselves and our gear and we can proceed into that flap area and extract the maximum amount of information.

What good has come from filling reports for a few to read?, admittedly this has to be done to compile a record of events but why leave it there? If we take it one step further and become physically involved in the phenomena we must be better off than before, we must be in a better position to record something worthwhile that cannot be easily dismissed. Everyone says "Why hasn't there been any good evidence to prove the existence of UFOs?". Surely we, as the 'experts' on the subject, must have an idea of what is going on! But no, we know very little than what we did thirty years ago - why?, because as far as I can see no-one has taken the time or trouble to conduct an organised expedition with the right sort of gear to find the 'evidence'. Sure, a couple of individuals have, from time to time, ventured into the cold and sat all night only to leave the next morning vowing never to under-take such a venture ever again but analyse why this is so, think of that one person, alone and unaided with only his wits and his camera to help him, what can he hope to achieve alone, very little I say because he is not a machine, he can only conduct one or two tasks at once and things invariably go wrong. If it was a team effort, then perhaps the results would have been different, only by testing your equipment under similar conditions to what you will be experiencing will you ever hope to produce some worthwhile results and only through a team effort will those results merit interest from those we are trying to convince.

It will only take one good photograph using the Polaroid and Grating to prove or dispell the EM theory, one photograph taken with the right equipment. is going to be worth a thousand reports. One thing is certain, that photo wont be taken sitting in your living room reading your favourite UFO book, the scientific community is right to doubt the validity of some reports and they cannot be blamed when they ask for proof, something tangible to work with. The fact is that no proof is available and that is where we come in, we must change our investigative format and get out there and find the 'proof' even if it means giving up what spare time we have, the problem wont come to us, we must go to it. No results may be forthcoming in a hundred attempts and the excercise could be termed fruitless but consider that even though no good results are obtained isn't the effort alone something to be proud of, at least you have had the initiative to do something constructive and when a sighting does occur close to you, you will have had the benefit of at least being familiar with all that is seen in the sky at night and your knowledge could then be the determining factor in the final conclusion of that report which otherwise may have had a different interpretation. How many investigators actively involved in UFO research really know what can be seen in the night sky? How many investigators cannot differentiate between a star and a planet? How many cannot point out the positions of the planets from one month to another? Surely this must be a prime prerequisite for a UFO investigator, he must be conversant with a great many things in the sky and if he is not then that report he investigates will have a lesser degree of validity, common sense is not so common so our sense of what 'is' and what 'isn'T' cannot be relied upon. Experience is the best teacher here and it is up to the individual to gain it, the human organism is only a rudimentary scientific instrument and the more help

we have from our technology the better off we will be. Someone once said "Everyone talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it", the same holds true for ufology to a certain degree.

We have many hurdles still left to straddle and it is heartening to see many groups undertaking new projects, things that should have been done years ago. We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once, we can show people we are investigating the phenomena in a serious and scientific manner, we can expand our group by international correspondence and we can PUBLISH our results for all to see. If enough public interest is stirred then our aims will be realised.

In Australia, we have ACOS, a body to collect all reports received in this country and disseminate information. It is run like all private research groups - with little funding and it is our main link with each other, it must be used to it's fullest extent for our mutual benefit. The Bulletin is published for all groups and so far has been an outstanding success, but how can it be used more efficiently? How can we make use of its scope to promote our aims and ideas? Only through contributing data and articles of interest on the UFO subject can this be achieved! The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are at present, but in what direction we are moving so let's all start looking towards a better future in ufology and concentrate our efforts in the same direction, co-operation is the key to this success and it can and will be achieved.

Where Did All The Photoes Go?

by H. I. Goriss (UFOR-FNQ)

Here we ufologists sit, complaining about the great lack of evidence of UFO photographs in a camera-mad society. Why is there a lack? How could so few UFO photographs exist when there is at least one camera in practically every home in australia?, if not the western world? (we have six of varying makes and sizes)

The answers are deceptively simple:

1. People (the general populace; forget the camera nuts, talented amateurs and professional photographers), tend to stick with one type of film (Kodacolor II-100 ASA and its contemporaries) and are ignorant of the existence of higher speed films (and probably wouldn't know what the use of high speed films was anyway).
2. People don't carry cameras with them at all times, and especially at night. (This is a shame as most "pocket instamatics" of the 110 size are small enough to carry in a coat pocket or shoulder bag).
3. And most importantly, people simply don't know how to use their cameras.

Yes, the sad truth is out. The large majority of people who buy cameras (especially, but not exclusively the simplest "instamatic" type), don't know, and never learn how to use that camera efficiently and effectively. Specifically, they don't recognize the camera's limits. They know basically how cameras work, (who doesn't these days), but are merely adequate in their actual use of the camera.

From experience gained while working in the camera retail trade, I find that most people who buy "instamatic" type cameras, be they 110 or 126 film size, expect to be able to point the camera at a subject, squeeze the trigger and get a perfect result every time. Of course the subject is supposed to stay still. I mean, they are taking a photograph of it so it's OBLIDGED to stay still. Naturally, the world being what it is, not all things are immobile. But, move the camera to track the object as they take the photograph? What for? Didn't the operating instructions say to try and keep the camera steady?

But, back to the elusive perfect print - even in pitch darkness. Well, what are flash cubes or electronic flash units for? How many people know, or remember, that a flash cube is only effective within four to nine feet from the front of the camera for colour film, and four to fifteen feet for black and white film? Not many! And this category also includes some 35mm camera owners. Allow me to demonstrate by relating a true experience.

When Cairns was holding its Centenary celebrations, I was standing on the Marlin Jetty on the Cairns Harbour watching a fireworks display that was part of the celebrations. It was full night, the sky was quite dark, and the fireworks that were being launched from a barge anchored a few kilometers out into the harbour, (toward the seaward entrance), were quite spectacular. As the display continued, I noticed, (amidst the popping of flash cubes mounted on "instamatic" cameras), a gentleman standing not far from myself, who was taking photographs of the display with his 35 mm camera. Yes, there he stood in all his glory. His expensive-looking 35mm camera, mounted by his expensive-looking electronic flash unit, taking expensive and totally useless flash illuminated photographs of the murky waters of Cairns Harbour, instead of the glorious shots of the fireworks display he thought he was going to end up with. (Maybe he was lucky and something turned out). The people doing the same with "instamatic" cameras and flash cubes would end up with the same, if not worse results.

Firstly, if the guy with the 35mm camera had used 400 ASA color print film and set his camera on the slowest speed and the widest aperture, he would probably have ended up with a reasonable result. (I have done the same using the rising moon after sunset as a subject, and received a reasonable result. The fireworks were much brighter than my moon and I admit they moved faster faster.)

For the people with "instamatic" type cameras, I don't hold much hope, but they could have tried 400 ASA film, set their simple controls to 'flash and/or shade' and used a used flash cube in the socket provided therefore. This used flashcube idea will slow the shutter speed of an "instamatic" camera fractionally, but possibly enough for the purpose.

The major problem with self-illuminating objects (including UFOs) at night, is that people have gotten it into their heads that if you want to take a photograph of any object, at night, no matter what the distance or type of illumination, you have to use a flash. I am taking very good photographs of the images that flit across my television screen, (a self-illuminated object), at night using no other light source (like a flash unit) with my 35 mm Nikonos II, (hand held or preferably tripod mounted), using 400 ASA film at 1/60th of a second at f4. Who needs a flash unit? (For that matter, who owns one?)

On top of all this, there are, of course, the simple problems that people never seem to eradicate. The moving of the camera while pressing the shutter release. The finger in front of the lens. The double exposures. The shooting into the sun and the lens flares. The incorrect focusing. The dirty lens and the lens caps left on. I could go on and on, ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

Basically, the problem is this. People haven't learned to take good photographs of their everyday environment, let alone something out of the ordinary like UFOs. The major reason is that people don't know enough about their own cameras, nor about film types and their varying uses, (few people have heard of ASA ratings, let alone know what they are for,) and how many know how their film is processed and the techniques that can be employed during processing to ensure a better end result?

The answer to these problems is, of course, education of the masses. Who by? Camera retailers are basically interested only in selling the cameras and in some cases, photofinishing. They are not interested in how well the customer uses his or her camera. So therefore, it must be left to those who would gain by having many millions educated amateur photographers, who use their cameras effectively and efficiently, producing good results consistently of the mundane or unexpected, no matter what the conditions. I'm sure we could use such a data gathering force as that, so let's have a go at doing something about it. Maybe such a rosy view is not so far away. But, until such an education program is effective, I must sadly recall and agree with author Robert Heinlein who once wrote "Never underestimate the power of Human Stupidity".

Keith Basterfield's Hypnopompic Imagery Theory-A Comment.BY David Seargent.

Sometimes, one sees an article which rises above the ordinary in its lucidity of argument and freshness of idea. Just such an article appeared in the last edition of the Bulletin, and it is on this that I would like to add a few comments now.

The article to which I am referring to is Keith Basterfield's paper on a possible psychological explanation for certain types of close encounter experiences and similar apparitional phenomena. In full agreement with Keith on this point, I think that many peculiar close encounters are quite likely to have this psychological phenomenon as their cause.

One case outside Australia which seems fitted for this type of explanation was the Vilvorde humanoid case (see Jean-Luc Vertongen's article in FSR Vol. 20 No. 6 Nov.-Dec. 1974 - reprinted in "Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review" New American Library p.103).

This single witness case involved a man getting up in the early hours of the morning (2.00 a.m. inevitably!) to answer the calls of nature. Reaching the kitchen on his way through the dark house, he heard a sound coming from the outside and, upon investigating this, was surprised to find a small space-suited, glowing, humanoid pushing something that looked like a hand vacuum cleaner around the back lawn! The humanoid moved slowly, as if finding difficulty in walking, but at one stage looked in the direction of the witness (who saw remarkable detail in the creature's eyes) before finally walking STRAIGHT UP A PERPENDICULAR WALL AND DOWN THE OTHER SIDE. A moment later, he reappeared in a UFO and sailed away into the wild blue yonder.

What did the witness do after seeing all this? Had a bite to eat and then went back to bed and fell asleep!

This case could not be verified by any physical evidence, nor by any other witnesses. Furthermore, the witness had a history of UFO sightings. Nevertheless investigators believed him to be sincere i.e. he did not give the impression of having made up the encounter.

My suggestion is that the whole experience was an exceptionally vivid DREAM. Note, for instance, the slow movements of the entity ("dreamlike"?), the vividness with which the witness perceived its eyes (he even saw the blood veinlets upon its iris) and the strange ability of the creature to walk up a wall. But most impressive of all, was the complete lack of fear or even of appreciable interest on the part of the witness. He finds an alien creature in his garden, but he takes little interest, not even calling his wife or cousin (who was staying with him at the time) but instead prepares a snack and goes back to bed. He sees a humanoid and watches it take off in a flying saucer and shows less concern than if he had just witnessed a cat fight!

Such is hard to believe, if the event really took place, but it is not impossible if it was all a dream - perhaps accompanied by somnambulism.

(Query: In some cases could a somnambulistic witness act out a UFO dream even to the extent of making trace marks on the ground???)

In virtually all the cases listed by Keith Basterfield, this curious feature of lack of fear - even lack of interest - could be found. Strange indeed for a person who has just seen an alien craft and/or alien beings outside his bedroom window to be so unimpressed that he curls up in bed and drops off to sleep again! Strange, if these events "really happen", BUT QUITE TYPICAL IF THEY ARE HYPNOPOMPIC/HYPNOGOGIC HALLUCINATIONS (WHICH FREQUENTLY DO NOT GIVE RISE TO FEAR AND ARE OFTEN TREATED AS QUITE MATTER OF FACT BY THE WITNESS) or vivid dreams. This, for me is quite strong evidence in favour of the psychological interpretation of this class of report, however, what is possibly more interesting is the SIMILARITY between reports of this nature and other close encounters - including multiple witness cases and abductions. Would there be such similarity if the two classes of reports referred to different phenomena (one psychological and the other physical)?

I suspect that the answer is "No" and I feel that this answer is at least partially confirmed by the psychological symbolism and psychic events which are apparent to some extent in virtually all close encounter cases.

Deceptive Trends

by H.I. Goriss.

Now that movies such as "Star Wars" and especially "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" have swept the world with such huge success, the motion picture and television companies throughout the world have jumped on the science fiction bandwagon, creating dozens of extraterrestrial civilizations, hundreds of visually impressive spacecraft, and thousands of 'Unimagined Fanciful Objects'. All visiting our little planet for one reason or another. Because of this visual and audio deluge, I think it is about time we UFO researchers take a look at the possible effects these "Close Encounters of a Profitable Kind" may have on people in general.

In Science Fiction literature and films, UFOs have been doing sundry things to us and with the human race for nearly eighty years. Clearly, newspapers reports of UFO incidents have inspired some UFO films, (e.g. 'The Day The Earth Stood Still', 'Earth Vs The Flying Saucers', 'CE3K', and 'Starship Invasions'), but recently it seems that these films may wind up influencing actual future UFO reports.

It is a strange case; many films are based on, or use some elements of, actual UFO reports, and these films, in turn, influence the viewing public (including those people who see UFOs). Life to Art to Life! (Betty Hill's Zeta Reticuli map made a cameo appearance in the movie 'Starship Invasions'). Thus there is a potential of contamination of UFO sightings by popular UFO films. (It would be interesting to see if there is a 'Close Encounters' backlash to be seen in the UFO reports collected in this country). Our action now, may give us some understanding of the influence of this type of mass media presentation on our UFO data.

One advantage to be gained from all this, is that UFO sightings originally ignored are suddenly showing up on radio and television as millions get caught up in Close Encounters mania. People are taking more notice of strange aerial objects and looking at UFOs from a modified point of view. They are more ready to report and/or talk about such sightings than before and old reports come crawling out of the woodwork. Overall, a greater interest is shown in the UFO phenomenon than before (hopefully to our gain).

Be that as it may, we must still remember that all human experiences are affected by certain preconceived ideas and images. The viewing of UFO type science fiction movies and television programs, may put a different slant on these ideas, and hence, influence the way the witness interprets a UFO incident he or she may become involved in. This is, for the most part, an unconscious reaction (and in the case of some hoaxes, a conscious one). So the investigator must weed out any effect such mass media has had.

To this end, there is one question that could be added to the official Australian UFO Report Form (To be inserted after "Have you read any UFO literature") The question should read "Have you seen any UFO type science fiction films or television programs recently, and if so, what were they?" The media influence could then be taken into account. Movement, shape, colour, tactics, etc of the reported UFO can be compared with those in the movie (or TV program), and details of the report can be checked against details of the movie plot to see if there is any degree of similarity.

This means, of course, more work for the UFO investigators, but also more accurate data. Remember Art mimics Life, but Life also mimics Art. Be warned; with millions of viewers enjoying science fiction films, the conscious and subconscious minds of the population of this planet are being primed for a new burst of UFO stories.

Beware! Here come the 'Unidentified Fraudulent Objects.'

References: 'UFOs - Reel Vs Real' by James E. Oberg. printed in 'Starlog' magazine, number 12, March, 1978.

Notice re; Unidentified Phenomena Investigations Bureau (UPIB-Bunbury W.A.)
by Don and Jenny Ferguson.

"This open letter to all groups is a brief explanation of the demise of the UPIB".

"The group has ceased to be a serious group and exists solely for the purpose of a monthly talk and drink session. At the December 4th meeting, those members present, moved that the only concern of the members of UPIB shall be discussions on anything that may turn up. There shall be no research, investigation, correspondence either sent or received, nor any exchange of newsletters etc.

Jenny and myself joined the group in 1975, and in those days it was fairly slack, although any reports received, were at least looked at and discussed. In October 1976, Jenny was appointed secretary and set about attempting to get the group to conduct proper research and investigation and set programmes for discussion.

We began publishing a rather rough newsletter in March 1977 and since then published 7 issues of varying length and content. We kept brief minutes of meetings from December 1976 onwards, to have some record of the group's activity as this had not been done before. At that stage no one seemed to mind or object. We built up contacts & liaison with national and overseas groups to keep in constant touch with UFO matters. All these things kept us busy over this period of time.

Meetings generally consisted of up to 12 members in our group, all talking at once on different subjects, so no-one gained any real benefit at all, but still, members were happy to do things this way.

In future, all the group wishes to do is talk about the wonderful von Danikens etc, as though this is gospel. It is then, that Jenny and myself resigned from the group in disgust. There is a possibility that a new group of serious researchers will be formed with other ex-members of UPIB. Our hopes are that some stricter rules will govern this group to prevent a similar incident to the UPIB downfall.

We will attempt to gather any data we can while maintaining contact by at least one newsletter each year and can only attempt to do our best. We would greatly appreciate if all groups would maintain their contact with us at our home address, D&J FERGUSON 10 BRAUND ST. BUNBURY WEST AUSTRALIA 6230.

We wish all groups & serious researchers a happy festive season, and a fruitful new year,
Don & Jenny Ferguson"

FOOTNOTE: by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

This type of incident is indeed unfortunate by that members of a group, allegedly formed specifically for the investigation and research of UFO reports, are not really interested in the major purpose of the group's existence, but only in sitting around and talking. This has happened to several groups in the past, but luckily there have always been people within these groups who were dedicated and did ALL the work. As these people pulled out of these groups and formed new ones dedicated to the purpose for which we are in existence, things began looking up. (We don't think we have to go through the gigantic advances UFO research has made in the past few years in Australia).

Don and Jenny Ferguson resigned from UPIB and it practically folded up. Negotiations are presently underway for Don & Jenny to pool their resources with Jeff Bell & Steve Briggs of UFO Research (WA) and become investigators with them. We at ACOS sincerely hope that these negotiations prove fruitful, as this will benefit UFO research Australia tremendously. We have often believed that if the members themselves do not back the investigators & researchers, and help in whichever way possible, the people actually doing the work will eventually get fed up with supplying all the work & go their own way, thus destroying the very structure of the groups' setup.

UFO REPORTS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA:

NA 78080 September 77 to 78 2000-2100 N.L. UFOR(NSW)

The witness claims to have seen a bright, orange light in the Guildford district about 12 times in a period of 12 months. A second witness has observed similar lights. Some of these sightings may be due to misidentifications of planets, but others are not so easily explained. The two closest sightings involved an orange, luminescent object of spherical or elliptical shape and angular size comparable to or larger than that of the moon. The object was initially stationary, diminishing its luminescence till it was star-sized, and shot off disappearing in the distance.

NA 78083 7th September 1978 1430 D.D. UFOR (NSW)

A lady was travelling in a taxi, in a N direction at Waverton, when she noticed through the car window, a whitish saucer-shaped object moving very slowly through a cloud bank to her right (NE). Thinking this to be a possible reflection on the glass, she wound the window down, only to find it was not a reflection, but a definite object that was "certainly not a plane". She pointed the object out to the taxi driver, who acknowledged seeing it, and they both observed it for a further 60 seconds, but as they stopped to get a better look the object disappeared.

NA 78122 1 October 1978 1415 D.D. UFOR (NSW)

A man, his wife and his daughter observed 2 bright lights approaching their house from the E-NE. They watched as one light, which by now had moved closer and to their right, began to hover above the house at a high altitude. Both objects gave off a flashing light which was determined to be the reflection from the sun and through binoculars they could clearly see the objects to be disc shaped, the closer one wobbling and hovering about its axis and a raised upper section was noted in which was observed a smaller dark section. After about 15 minutes, the closer object stopped flashing and immediately accelerated at tremendous speed to the SW, it was out of sight within $\frac{1}{2}$ second. As they turned to look at the other more distant one, it too had gone.

ND 78003 10 September 1978 2030 CE1 K. Blackman.

A hat shaped object was seen at Port Macquarie by two men, at 2030. There was no noise, just a hat shaped glow, glowing on and off around the boarder. Then it dropped behind trees, out of view and disappeared.

TA 78144 9 October 1978 2100 Car Pace TUFOIC.

Husband and wife were returning home from Launceston, when they see a bright yellow light, which, after a little while, it descends alongside the road, and paces their car. It did so for 40-45 KM, Occasionally, an orange red light could be seen going on and off on the top of the yellow glow. After a while, the object receded into the W to SW sky. The witnesses then passed through some fog banks and upon clearing these, the object was gone. The sighting lasted for approximately 30 seconds.

TA 78158

25 November 1978

2250

CE2

TUFOIC.

The witness was awoken by her dog outside the bedroom window. The dog usually chases possums at night, but this time he barked, howled and stopped. The witness climbed out of bed to quieten the dog and noticed a faint glow coming from the study next to the bedroom. She looked through the study thinking it was a burgler. Instead, she saw out on the rough driveway 50 meters off, a doorway of white light. The "door" was 9-12 meters high, maybe 1 meter wide. It was dark outside except for the door, through this she could see the driveway beyond where it curved away from the house. It looked like day on the other side of the doorway. She felt almost held and looked at it for several minutes. Then, a golden glow could be seen spreading out in a circle and coming towards the house. This glow seemed to light up the ground but not the few trees about the house. Her view was restricted by the windows in some areas. After a few minutes, the glow and the doorway suddenly went out. She is sure this was not a dream, as soon as it was over, she went to check on her baby.

TA 78 163.

28th November 1978

0100

CE3

TUFOIC

Witness' children had been restless during night, and witness got up about 0100. She went outside the caravan and upon almost entering it again, heard a 'clunk', like a hand lightly thumping a car panel. She stood at the entrance for a minute looking at the figures she noticed across the park. She went back in to get her dressing gown, expecting the 'people' to have gone when she came back outside. They were still there, facing her caravan. She felt uneasy approaching them, and after 2-3 minutes went back inside the van. She described the figures as dark shaped, estimated .75 meter height, broader in body than child. Body human in appearance although no neck noticed, and either shoulder length hair or head covering. No hands or feet visible. No movement except for arms which continually seemed to wave or ripple alongside of body. No legs as such seen.

Another woman at the same caravan park, earlier in week, was in boat late at night and saw a dark shape on the ground, rippling towards her only a meter from her. She had difficulty in remembering what happened or of the things shape. It was on the ground like a plastic sheet and undulated along. She found it hard to focus on the "thing". She eventually went inside. Next day, her eyes watered and at the supermarket, she kept bumping into people as she felt "sort of mesmerised".

QB78014

11 May 1978

1930

CE2

UFOR (FNQ)

Object seen approaching by son, who alerts mother. Both observe object move and then hover over trees approximately 400 meters to the W. Alleged effects on television set and dogs during sighting. Object described as domed with blue pulsating light on top in the centre, and a bright shiny silver colouring. It either had a band or line of yellow lights around side, also pulsating. Just before son called mother, she was watching television, when the picture was rolling and a static sound was heard. The dogs began acting funny in a panicky or fretting manner immediately before the sighting.